

# Your Town of Pines Group May Qualify for Independent Technical Adviser

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency believes that public participation results in better solutions for local cleanup projects. Independent advisers can help you by interpreting technical documents and providing insight into the EPA cleanup process. A citizen's group from the Pines area may qualify for funds provided by the companies that EPA holds responsible for the pollution. This type of funding is called a Technical Assistance Plan or TAP. As part of a legal settlement with EPA, the responsible companies will provide up to \$50,000 to a qualified community group to hire its own technical adviser.

## **To receive TAP funds the community applicant must be:**

- 1) A group of people who may be affected by a release or threatened release of contamination at the local site;
- 2) Incorporated as a non-profit organization for the purposes of the site or otherwise established as a charitable, non-profit organization that operates within the geographical range of the site; and
- 3) Is able to demonstrate its capability to adequately and responsibly manage any funds awarded.

As work progresses, the adviser may be asked to:

- 1) Act as a liaison between the group and the companies and government agencies
- 2) Review site-related documents
- 3) Interpret and explain information to community members
- 4) Make site visits and attend meetings
- 5) Prepare reports, presentations and comments and questions on behalf of the group

EPA Community Involvement Coordinator **Janet Pope** will show you how to apply for a TAP. Her telephone number at EPA Region 5 in Chicago is (312) 353-0628, or 1-800-621-8431x0628. You may also e-mail her at [pope.janet@epa.gov](mailto:pope.janet@epa.gov).

The Technical Assistance Plan (TAP) funded by responsible parties for the Town of Pines site is modeled on a similar Technical Assistance Grant (TAG) program funded by EPA. Both programs provide \$50,000 to assist community groups. TAGs, however, are only provided by EPA for sites named or proposed to the Superfund National Priorities List. TAPs are for important sites that don't happen to be on the Superfund list.

